



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on November 28, 2021

Sermon: Hope
Text: Romans 5:1-5

Gathering Guidelines

Take some time to worship

Read Romans 5:1-5

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

Question #1: Read Romans 5:1-2

It says here that 'we have been justified through faith' and that we now 'have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Consider the fact that when sin entered this world it entered every one of us. Sin broke the world and we are part of that world. God created the world and everything in it to be in *relation* with Him and that *relationship* was broken when sin came. This caused the world to be at odds with God, even an *enemy*, because what the world now valued was not what God valued.

A sacrifice was necessary to 'fix' the system, and it took the sinless blood of Jesus to do it. When we put our faith in Jesus we receive forgiveness of our sins and by putting our faith in Him we find ourselves reconciled to God Himself once again.

This leads to 'peace with God'. He is now for us and not against us, and we not only have salvation but also the mandate to live holy lives that reflect God's values and desires.

Here is your question: What do you think the having peace with God changes in your life? What does it offer? How does it affect you day to day?

Question #2: In Romans 5:2 it says "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." This has a future orientation to it, so what do you think this means?

Additional Question:

In Proverbs 13:12 says "hope deferred makes the heart sick." If the hope talked about in Romans 5 is primarily future oriented, then how do we have hope in God in the here and now?

Question #3: Read Roman 5:3-4. Paul talks about rejoicing in suffering because it produces things that lead to hope. Think about how hope is pointed toward the culmination of human life when Jesus returns and all things will be made sinless and new. Think about how He suffered in order to make that possible. Think about how God is working throughout history to accomplish His glorious will and how that works out through a lot of suffering and turmoil. Now think about hope that arises through the struggle of life. . .and ask yourself if God uses *your* struggles to build something powerful and beautiful in you? Does *hope* become something much more to you when see it successfully overcoming and developing *through* your struggles?

Additional Question:

Think about hope and struggle in a sports context.

Every team has hope at the beginning of the season. Every team endures struggles they have to overcome throughout the season. Do you think that victory at the end of the season is sweeter because of the struggle? Does hope then become something powerful and fulfilling when you see how it led you through the struggles?

Now think about how hope in Jesus can do the same thing for you in in life!

Question #4: Read Romans 5:5. . .It says that hope does not disappoint. Hope must be pointing toward something, have some kind of goal in mind here that leads one to see and understand that it is accomplishing something in a very real and tangible way. What is it that this hope is doing? If it is not disappointing then it must be incredibly *satisfying*. What does hope do to satisfy you?

Additional Question: In Romans 5:5 it also says that hope does not disappoint because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

So hope in God and love from God are key players in our lives as followers of Jesus.

I think it would be true to say that hope is fueled by love. It is God's love that causes Him to pour Himself into His children through the Holy Spirit in order to give rise to the strength needed to live a life of hope through struggles.

What thoughts arise in you when think of the fact that God's love resides in you, fuels hope in you, and promises to satisfy you?

Question #5: Awkward final question:

Take a look at the person to your left. Now consider the hope that God has provided for them. Think about how this hope is fueled by the love of God that resides in them through the Holy Spirit.

What would you want to say to this person because of all this?

Invitation and Mission for this week

Given the questions that you have worked through, together think about what your mission should be this week.

Pray for each other